
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1509

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Government Administration (originally sponsored by Representatives D. Schmidt, Scott, Appelwick, Cooper, Thompson, L. Thomas, Dunn, Wensman, Carlson, Honeyford, D. Sommers, Koster, Chopp, Linville, Grant, Hatfield, Doumit, Dickerson, Constantine, Backlund, Kenney, O'Brien, Wolfe, Blalock, Gombosky, Cole, Butler, Tokuda, Gardner, Keiser, Costa, Mulliken, Quall, Morris, Ogden, Cody, Kessler, Anderson and Mason)

Read first time 02/27/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to petitions to be filed with the government;
2 amending RCW 29.79.090, 29.79.100, 29.79.110, and 29.79.490; and adding
3 a new section to chapter 29.79 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.79.090 and 1982 c 116 s 9 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Petitions for proposing measures for submission to the
8 legislature at its next regular session, shall be substantially in the
9 following form:

10 "WARNING

11 Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her
12 true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this
13 petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false
14 statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or
15 both.

1 procuring signatures on that petition in at least twenty-point, bold-
2 faced type at the top of each petition:

3 "SIGNATURE GATHERERS ARE BEING PAID BY (type or
4 legibly print in ink the name of the group, organization, or
5 person paying for the signature gathering) TO CIRCULATE THIS
6 PETITION."

7 The requirements under this subsection (3) are not required on any
8 other petition for the same initiative measure if compensation, pay, or
9 other consideration is not provided to the person circulating,
10 soliciting, or procuring signatures on that particular petition.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.79.100 and 1982 c 116 s 10 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) Petitions for proposing measures for submission to the people
14 for their approval or rejection at the next ensuing general election,
15 shall be substantially in the following form:

16 "WARNING

17 Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her
18 true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this
19 petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false
20 statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or
21 both.

22 INITIATIVE PETITION FOR
23 SUBMISSION TO THE PEOPLE

24 To the Honorable, Secretary of State of the State of
25 Washington:

26 We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the State of
27 Washington, respectfully direct that the proposed measure known as
28 Initiative Measure No., entitled (here insert the established
29 ballot title of the measure), a full, true and correct copy of which is
30 printed on the reverse side of this petition, be submitted to the legal
31 voters of the State of Washington for their approval or rejection at
32 the general election to be held on the day of November,
33 19. . .; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally
34 signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington, in
35 the city (or town) and county written after my name, my residence

1 address is correctly stated, and I have knowingly signed this petition
2 only once.

4	<i>Petitioner's</i>	‡ <i>Print name</i>	‡ <i>Residence address,</i>	‡ <i>City</i>	‡
5	<i>signature</i>	‡ <i>for positive</i>	‡ <i>street and number,</i>	‡ <i>or</i>	‡ <i>County</i>
6		‡ <i>identification</i>	‡ <i>if any</i>	‡ <i>Town</i>	‡
7		‡	‡	‡	‡

8
9 (Here follow 20 numbered lines divided into columns as below.)

10		‡	‡	‡	‡
11		‡	‡	‡	‡
12		‡	‡	‡	‡
13	1	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡
14		‡	‡	‡	‡
15		‡	‡	‡	‡
16		‡	‡	‡	‡
17	2	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡
18		‡	‡	‡	‡
19		‡	‡	‡	‡
20		‡	‡	‡	‡
21	3	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡
22					
23		<i>etc.</i>			

24 (2) Space must be provided on each petition for the person or
25 persons who procured the signatures to both sign and print his or her
26 name and address certifying that, to his or her knowledge, the
27 signatures on the petition are valid.

28 (3) In addition, the following must be included and completed on
29 each initiative petition where compensation, pay, or other
30 consideration is provided to the person circulating, soliciting, or
31 procuring signatures on that petition in at least twenty-point, bold-
32 faced type at the top of each petition:

33 "SIGNATURE GATHERERS ARE BEING PAID BY (type or
34 legibly print in ink the name of the group, organization, or
35 person paying for the signature gathering) TO CIRCULATE THIS
36 PETITION."

37 The requirements under this subsection (3) are not required on any
38 other petition for the same initiative measure if compensation, pay, or
39 other consideration is not provided to the person circulating,
40 soliciting, or procuring signatures on that particular petition.

41 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.79.110 and 1993 c 256 s 10 are each amended to read
42 as follows:

1 † † † †
2 3“ “ “ “ “ † “ “ “ “ † “ “ “ “ † “ “ “ “ † “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
3
4 etc.”

5 (2) Space must be provided on each petition for the person or
6 persons who procured the signatures to both sign and print his or her
7 name and address certifying that, to his or her knowledge, the
8 signatures on the petition are valid.

9 (3) In addition, the following must be included and completed on
10 each referendum petition where compensation, pay, or other
11 consideration is provided to the person circulating, soliciting, or
12 procuring signatures on that petition in at least twenty-point, bold-
13 faced type at the top of each petition:

14 "SIGNATURE GATHERERS ARE BEING PAID BY (type or
15 legibly print in ink the name of the group, organization, or
16 person paying for the signature gathering) TO CIRCULATE THIS
17 PETITION."

18 The requirements under this subsection (3) are not required on any
19 other petition for the same referendum measure if compensation, pay, or
20 other consideration is not provided to the person circulating,
21 soliciting, or procuring signatures on that particular petition.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 29.79 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 A person who provides compensation, pay, or other consideration to
25 another person to circulate, solicit, or procure signatures on an
26 initiative or referendum petition shall keep records of the person who
27 procured the signatures for consideration on each separate petition.
28 Space must be provided on each petition to number the petition to
29 assist in tracking the signature gatherers. These records must be kept
30 current and must be submitted to the secretary of state when the
31 petitions are filed.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.79.490 and 1993 c 256 s 4 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 Every person (~~shall be~~) is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who:
35 (1) For any consideration or gratuity or promise thereof, signs or
36 declines to sign any initiative or referendum petition; or

1 (2) Provides or receives consideration for soliciting or procuring
2 signatures on an initiative or referendum petition if any part of the
3 consideration is based upon the number of signatures solicited or
4 procured, or offers to provide or agrees to receive such consideration
5 any of which is based on the number of signatures solicited or
6 procured; or

7 (3) Gives or offers any consideration or gratuity to any person to
8 induce him or her to sign or not to sign or to vote for or against any
9 initiative or referendum measure; or

10 (4) Interferes with or attempts to interfere with the right of any
11 voter to sign or not to sign an initiative or referendum petition or
12 with the right to vote for or against an initiative or referendum
13 measure by threats, intimidation, or any other corrupt means or
14 practice; or

15 (5) Receives, handles, distributes, pays out, or gives away,
16 directly or indirectly, money or any other thing of value contributed
17 by or received from any person, firm, association, or corporation whose
18 residence or principal office is, or the majority of whose members or
19 stockholders have their residence outside, the state of Washington, for
20 any service rendered for the purpose of aiding in procuring signatures
21 upon any initiative or referendum petition or for the purpose of aiding
22 in the adoption or rejection of any initiative or referendum measure:
23 PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not apply to or prohibit any
24 activity which is properly reported in accordance with the applicable
25 provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW; or

26 (6) Circulates, solicits, or procures, or attempts to procure,
27 signatures upon an initiative or referendum petition that fails to meet
28 the requirements of RCW 29.79.080, 29.79.090, 29.79.100, or 29.79.110,
29 including, where applicable, the requirements that: (a) The statement
30 be included indicating that signature gatherers are being paid or
31 otherwise receiving consideration to gather signatures; and (b) the
32 name of the group, organization, or person paying for signature
33 gathering be inserted.

34 A gross misdemeanor under this section is punishable to the same
35 extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its
37 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

1 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
2 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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